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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,625	03/24/2004	Krishna M. Ravi	HES 2003-IP-009511U1	4052
28857	7590	05/30/2007	EXAMINER	
CRAIG W. RODDY			NEUDER, WILLIAM P	
HALLIBURTON ENERGY SERVICES				
P.O. BOX 1431			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DUNCAN, OK 73536-0440			3672	
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			05/30/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/807,625

Applicant(s)

RAVI, KRISHNA M.

Examiner

William P. Neuder

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-9,11-22,26-30,32-43 and 47-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12 and 33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-9,11,13-22,26-30,32,34-43,47-58,60 and 65-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 59,61-64,68 and 69 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 14-20,35-41,52-57 and 65-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gano et al (applied in previous office action).

Gano discloses (figures 1-3) a method of casing a well comprising providing a casing with a sleeve 26 of stress absorbent material coated thereon and surrounding at least a portion of the casing. The stress absorbent material substantially covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve. The stress absorbent material comprises fibers. As to claim 15, the casing coating is directly coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve. As to claims 16,37 and 53, the coating 48 is directly coated on an interior surface. As to claims 17,38,55 and 67, the casing coating has a thickness of less than 3 inches. As to claims 18,39 and 56, no coating step has been set forth and these claims call for a coated sleeve. How the coating is applied is not material. As to claims 19,40 and 57, the coating comprises fiber and resin (see col. 8, lines 41-45). As to claims 20 and 41, a casing collar 34 is connected to the end of the casing. The casing collar is a hollow cylindrical shaped housing. As to claim 35, Gano discloses a method of reducing transmission of stress from a casing to a cement sheath comprising providing a casing comprising a sleeve 26 having a stress absorbent coating

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(38,40) surrounding a portion of the casing and substantially covering a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve, placing the casing into the well 10 to form an annulus and placing cement 14 into the annulus and allowing the cement to set to bond the casing to the formation (see col. 8, lines 2-4). As to claim 66, cement is placed in the annulus.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1,5-9,11,13,21,22,26-30,32,34,42,43,47-51 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gano et al (described above).

These claims contain the same limitations as the claims set forth above except to additionally call for the collar to be coated with the stress absorbent material. Gano discloses the casing collar but does not disclose the collar being coated with the stress absorbent material. Gano teaches that the coating provides additional wear resistance

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(see col. 10, lines 19-23). As it would be advantageous to provide additional wear resistant material to all parts of the casing string, it would have been considered obvious to modify Gano to have the casing collar coated to provide additional wear resistance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 58-62,64,68 and 69 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 5/7/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant again argues that he does not consider the stress absorbent material of Gano to be a coating and that the material does not substantially cover the circumferential area of the sleeve. It is suggested that applicant amend the claims to define that the sleeve has an outer and or inner surface and that the stress absorbent material covers the entire sleeve outer and/or inner surface. It is my opinion that we are being hung up by the use of circumferential area of the sleeve. I believe that even though Gano has openings or holes in the stress absorbent material, the material clearly covers the entire circumferential area of the sleeve. As to the material being a coating, it is my opinion that the material of Gano is a coating for the same reasons as presented in the last office action. With respect to applicant's arguments and amendments that the material of Gano is not directly coated on the sleeve, this is not concurred with. Gano is directly attached to the sleeve through the use of some form of epoxy. With respect to applicant's arguments concerning determining a high-stress


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zone, these arguments are persuasive and these claims have been indicated as allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Neuder whose telephone number is 571-272-7032. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on 571-272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


William P Neuder
Primary Examiner
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W.P.N.